

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 01987 151210Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-10 SY-05 USSS-00 OIC-02 AID-05 H-02

/085 W

----- 079030

O P 151143Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1717

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USUN MISSION NEW YORK PRIORITY 240

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SL (KOROMA,S.I.)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY VICE-PRESIDENT KOROMA

1. VICE-PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA INFORMED ME LATE AUGUST 14 THAT, IN HIS RECENTLY ASSUMED CONCURRENT ROLE AS MINISTER OF FINANCE, HE WILL LEAD GOSL DELEGATION TO COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTER'S MEETING AND IBRD/IMF MEETING. KOROMA TO LEAVE FREETOWN AUGUST 20 FOR LONDON AND THEN TO GEORGETOWN. HE PLANS FLY DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON APPARENTLY ON CHARTERED FLIGHT O/A AUGUST 29, AND WILL RETURN VIA NEW YORK AND LONDON. DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING ASAP.

2. THIS WILL BE FIRST VISIT TO US BY KOROMA WHO IS CURRENT FRONT-RUNNER TO FOLLOW STEVENS AS PRESIDENT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FREETO 01987 151210Z

OVER PAST FEW YEARS, KOROMA HAS BEEN "HEAVY" ON MOST MATTERS RELATED TO US AND CONSIDERED BY MANY OBSERVERS

TO BE LEADER AMONG "LEFTISTS" IN APC. DURING RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER, HE HAS SHOWN INCREASING WARMTH TOWARD AND ASSOCIATION WITH US. MOST OBVIOUS SIGN OF CHANGE IS HIS WILLINGNESS TO OPEN OFFICIALLY USIS "TREASURES OF SPACE" EXHIBIT AUGUST 19 IN FREETOWN.

3. KOROMA HAS ENTERED FINANCE MINISTRY LIKE HOUSE AFIRE. GOSL FINANCIAL SITUATION HAD SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED IN BOTH BUDGET AND EXTERNAL PAYMENTS FIELDS, LARGELY THROUGH CORRUPTION, RAMPANT BUDGET OVEREXPENDITURES AND OVERLY FREE RECOURSE TO OVERSEAS SUPPLIER CREDITS. KOROMA, WHO HAS REPUTATION AS ONLY DECISIVE MEMBER OF CABINET AND ONLY ONE ABLE TO TACKLE NATIONAL ISSUES IN FACE OF LOCAL PRESSURES, HAS VOWED TO SET GOSL ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER BY NEXT JUNE. HE TRAVELS AGAINST HIS OWN WISHES - HE PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT HAVING TO BE DEFENSIVE ABOUT GOSL FINANCES, AS HE LIKES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCCESS. HE ALSO CONCERNED THAT REST OF CABINET, NOW UNDER THE GUN TO CLEANSE SELVES FROM CORRUPTION, WILL UNDERMINE HIM POLITICALLY DURING HIS ABSENCE. DECISION FOR HIM TO GO, MADE AFTER FULL CABINET DISCUSSION AND CLEAR PREFERENCE BY PRESIDENT STEVENS, RESULTED FROM BELIEF THAT GOSL'S ECONOMIC REPUTATION HAD SUNK SO LOW THAT HIS PRESENCE ALONE COULD ASSURE INTERNATIONAL DOUBTERS THAT GOSL NOW GAINING GRIP ON ITSELF AND THAT CREDIT WORTHINESS WOULD BE RESUMED.

4. USG SHOULD MAKE MAXIMUM MILEAGE OUT OF KOROMA VISIT. WHILE UNDERSTANDING HECTIC NATURE OF WASHINGTON DUE TO LABOR DAY AND IBRD/IMF MEETING I STRONGLY URGE EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO INCLUDE A FEW HIGH LEVEL VISITS WITHIN USG, INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AND SENIOR CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES. POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING KOROMA STAY TO INCLUDE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI (SISTER CITY OF FREETOWN) AND BETHLEHEM SHOULD BE EXPLORED.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING IN POSITION BY TUESDAY MORNING LOCAL TIME TO INDICATE TO KOROMA DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 FREETO 01987 151210Z

USG INTEREST SO THAT I CAN TAKE APPROPRIATE STAND AT MEETING WITH HIM.

6. FOR USUN. WILL ENDEAVOR DETERMINE WHETHER KOROMA PLANS VISIT UN DURING VISIT. SAMUELS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FREETO01987
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750282-0961
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750846/aaaabntz.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO US BY VICE-PRESIDENT KOROMA
TAGS: OVIP, SL, (KOROMA, S I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006